

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

**Virginia Educator News
Region N
“Communications & Cooperation”**

SAFETY IS FOR LIFE

August / September 2004



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**Back to School
Time
Watch Out For
the Children!**

***Virginia is the proud home of six out of eight
Region “N” Educators of the Year***

***Gary & Jackie Wall, VA-C, 2003-2004
Doug & Ann Hardy, VA-M, 2002-2003
Pat & Shelia McMahan, VA-C, 2001-2002
Kathy & Chris Hooper, VA-D, 1999-2000
Cundiff & Ellen Simmons, VA-C, 1998-1999
Marty & Leslie Cash, VA-U, 1996-1997***

From the Desk of the District Educator

- Gary Wall, Virginia District Educator

Here it is another month and the newsletter editor had to kick me (again) to get my article in. It seems like it was just a month ago that I wrote one, and now she wants another. Editor's can be like a sore back, it's always there and you always feel it!!!!

First off, let me get on the soapbox for a minute. It seems like there has been a few questions, remarks, etc. about the need for Rider Ed. The comment's that I am hearing concern, "they are member's just like the rest of us, what makes them any better than us?"

Well, Educator's are members who have volunteered their time, knowledge, experience, and efforts to make everyone's skills just a little more on the front of mind awareness. With the sport bikes doing wheelies, stoppies, speeding, dodging in and out of traffic and generally making life miserable for all motorcyclist's, how can anyone "learn" from someone else's errors? For instance, if Educators did not have a little something to give or say at meetings, would tire pressure be in the forefront of people's minds? What about T-CLOC, would they even be thought of before taking that 2-hour ride? And what about that aspect of proper riding gear? Would they ever be stressed? Yes, Educators are members who take the time to make everyone's riding a little more safe and enjoyable, and for that other's can appreciate their time and effort's to increase their knowledge and experience. Without Educator's, there would not be any Rider Ed, so take pride in knowing that even though it might not be shown on a daily basis, your effort's are **appreciated!** Take pride in knowing that you are doing the best job you can do, and that people do rely on an Educator. Even when they don't say it...

Rally in the Valley is quickly approaching. The last time we looked, it was 5 short week's away. We hope everyone is doing his or her best in selling those "Fast Cash" tickets. Only a few of us have turned in the ticket stubs and the monies, and have asked for more. If everyone will do his or her best, it will

make for a whole lot less stress come time for the Rally. We will make someone a very happy person when they win \$1,000. We are asking that all Rider Educator's that will be attending the Rally, to donate an hour or so at the Rider Ed table, and to also bring a door prize for the Rider Ed table. Virginia has always been known to have great door prizes, and we hope to this year as well.

We will be having the annual Fall Officer's meeting in Lynchburg this November. It will be at the same Ramada Inn that we have held it in the past. The date is November 6th. We are asking that as many Educator's that can, attend this meeting. Plan on attending and having a little fun

I think that I have just about covered the items I thought of. We hope to see as many Educators as we can at our Rally. I will go ahead and start making notes for next month's article. Geez, I thought I was doing pretty well by getting an article in a month. Now, she wants me to start making notes for next month's article. There goes the backache again!!!!

Until we meet again, ride safe and have fun.

Door Prizes

We need door prizes for the Rider Ed table at Rally in the Valley. All Educators are asked to contribute 1 door prize (see if your Chapter will pay for it). Rider Ed has been known for having the BEST door prizes!! If you are not able to attend the rally, please send it with someone who will be there. Door prizes can also be dropped off at the table.

The Tire

- Ken Siadak
Chapter W Educator

Tires are one of the most important and basic aspects of a motorcycle. They are also one of the most neglected items on a motorcycle. If you want some verification of this you need only look down a row of parked machines. In this row you will undoubtedly see a machine or two that will blind you with shine and have tires that are badly worn and nearly bald. Under inflation is the one most serious problem seen across the board. If you doubt this, talk to anyone involved in motorcycle service. They can probably fill an hour or two with war stories relating to under inflated tires.

A short while ago we attended a tire seminar hosted by Dunlop. It consisted of a very nice slide show relating to how a motorcycle tire is manufactured and a Q & A session. The Dunlop representative offered some interesting information. It was stated that new tires don't have a "coating" of anything when they are sold. This came as a response to a question regarding sanding a new tire to remove the coating applied during the manufacturing process. The initial response was that the sander was removing only useable mileage from the tire. Further explanation was that a new tire would fully seat on the rim and change its shape after about 100 or so miles of run in. During these initial miles it was recommended that the rider refrain from all out acceleration, aggressive cornering, and hard braking. During this time the tire will also become more pliable.

Tire sealants, liquid balancers, and emergency inflators were discussed. The answer to all was "NO". Further questions from the audience yielded more "NO" answers. One of the reasons was that some of the sealants, while they may work temporarily could mask other serious problems. If used they will void any Dunlop tire warranty.

From here the discussion moved to patching motorcycle tires. There was some waffle room here. The standard string type of auto patch is strictly a "NO". The patch recommendation is that a small (1/4" or less) puncture in the tread area may be repaired with a plug patch applied to an unmounted tire from the inside by a

qualified tire repair shop or motorcycle dealer is acceptable. Speed for the first 24 hours after the repair has been made should be kept below 50 MPH. 80 MPH should never be exceeded after the repair has been made. It is assumed that you are checking your tire pressure regularly but special attention should be paid to the repaired tire to ensure the repair is viable. No repairs are permitted in the sidewall area and using a tube in a tubeless tire for a repair is a strict "NO".

The last area that I will mention is the use of the tire dressing products. All of these products are best left in the container they came in. Per the Dunlop rep, these products may make the tire shine but they interact with the tire compound and shorten the life of the tire. Mild soap and water along with a bristle brush is the recommended cleaning method.



Rider Ed Table

Give a helping hand at the Rider Ed table at Rally in the Valley. Do you have an hour or so you can spare? If so, stop by the Rider Ed table and volunteer to help out at the table. You can help with the card game, answer questions about Rider Education, sell pins and patches. We need your help. Stop by the table and sign up!!



Rally in the Valley

Rally in the Valley is next month, October 7-10. We will have lots of Rider Ed seminars and courses.



Listed below is the TENTATIVE schedule. Please keep in mind that **GWRRA reserves the right to change or alter these seminars and their times.** Once you get to the rally, be sure to check with the Rider Ed table for the most current and up-to-date information:

Thursday – October 7th

6pm – 9pm – Advanc. Sidecar/Trike Classroom
Instructors Cundiff Simmons and Pat McMahon.

Class is limited to 12 bikes. At this time, this class is full. If you are interested in being on a stand-by list, please go by the Rider Ed table to sign up.

Friday – October 8th

7:30am–12:30pm – Adv. Sidecar/Trike Range

7:30am – 12:30pm – ERC Suite
Instructors – Jim Sharkey and Greg Kestner

Class is limited to 12 bikes. At this time, this class is full. If you are interested in being on a stand-by list, please go by the Rider Ed table to sign up.

8am – 10am – Medic First Re-Certs
Instructors: Shelia McMahon & Dave Timbs

9am – 10am – What You See Seminar
Presenter: Pete Woodruff

10am – 11am – Trailing Seminar
Presenter: Pete Woodruff

10am – 12pm – Medic First Re-Certs
Instructors: Shelia McMahon & Dave Timbs

11am – 12pm – Trike Seminar
Presenter: Pete Woodruff

1pm – 2pm – Be Prepared
Presenter: John Newbauer

2pm – 3pm – CoRider Semnar
Presenter: William Lee

3pm – 4pm – Team Riding
Presenter: Bud Plymale

3pm – 5pm – Road Captains Classroom
Instructor: Nathan Owens
(You do NOT have to be pre-registered to take this class)

Saturday – October 9th

7:30am – 8:30am – Masters Breakfast
All EDUCATORS and all LEVEL IV members are invited to attend.

8:30am – 12:30pm – Medic First – full class
Instructors: Shelia McMahon & Pat McMahon

9am – 11am – Road Captains – Road
Instructor: Nathan Owens

9am – 10am – Trike Seminar
Presenter: Pete Woodruff

10am – 11am - Trailing Seminar
Presenter: Pete Woodruff

11am – 12pm – What You See Seminar
Presenter: Pete Woodruff

1pm – 2pm – CoRider Seminar
Presenter: Nick Knox

2pm – 3pm – Team Riding
Presenter: Bud Plymale

3pm – 4pm – Be Prepared
Presenter: Jim Sharkey

Blood Mobile

In addition to the classes listed above, don't forget there will also be the Blood Mobile on-site Saturday from 8am – 4pm. Take some time out to save a life.



Fast Cash Tickets

Rider Ed will be selling Fast Cash Tickets again this year. The cost will be \$10 per ticket with a maximum of 500 tickets sold. We will be giving away the following:

GRAND PRIZE - \$1,000
\$\$ (2) \$500 \$\$
(5) \$100

We need YOUR help in selling these tickets. Stop by the Rider Ed table and get some tickets to sell.

Did You Know...



Each month, I will try to highlight a part of the Rider Education Program Handbook. I hope that each of you have had time to go to the National website and download a copy of the 8th Edition.

This month's feature is

G.3 Rider Education Activity Reports

The Rider Education Activity Report (Form N.6) is essential and extremely important for several reasons. GWRRA maintains a tax-exempt status as a not-for-profit corporation as a result of the educational benefits GWRRA provides to its members. The Rider Education Program is a major contributor to maintaining that status. The International Director of Rider Education (or an appointed designee) must keep a record of the information contained in these reports as a business requirement and at the direction of the Executive Director. The statistics obtained from these reports are used to assess the level of impact and effectiveness of the program as well as validate the corporate classification.

The report also provides information to the Region and District Directors/Educators allowing each of them to determine the overall effectiveness of their efforts in the Rider Education Program within their respective areas of responsibility and enable them to assist the Educator, Chapter and members more

effectively and appropriately. Chapter and /or Districts that are not reporting or that are reporting low participation or activity are indicators for the District or Region Educators to assess and review the program performance.

G.3.1 Reporting Frequency

The Rider Education Activity Report is a summary of Rider Education Program activities and accomplishments during a specified calendar period. The reports must be prepared by the Chapter Educator and forwarded to the District Educator and Chapter Director. The frequency of reporting is recommended to be monthly but can be no greater than quarterly. However, the report must provide monthly data if reported quarterly and a quarterly summary. All Chapter reports are due to the District Educator no later than the 5th day of the month reporting the previous quarter's (or month's) activity. This reporting frequency is to be established by the District Educator working together with the Chapter Educators and must have the concurrence of the Region Educator.

NOTE: If no Chapter Educator has been appointed for the Chapter, the Chapter Director is responsible for completing and submitting this report.

The District Educator receives and compiles the data provided from the Chapter Reports into a single District Activity Report. The report will provide data for each month of the reporting period and a quarterly summary. This compiled report is then forwarded to the Region Educator and District Director on a quarterly basis. The report is due to the Region Educator no later than the 10th of the reporting month.

G.3.2 Completing the Report

The Rider Education Activity Report can be completed and submitted either using a hard copy (Form N.6) or electronically. If the report is submitted electronically, all data fields must be included and completed. The following is a brief review, step by step, for completing the Activity Report:

1. At the top of the report form fill in the Period (month or quarter) being reported, the Chapter, District or Region reporting, the name of the Educator reporting and

the current Rider Education Levels Program level of the Educator providing the report.

2. For each of the Courses listed, indicate the number of Courses Conducted and the number of members that participated (Participants). Please note that members attending courses provided by organizations other than GWRRA are to be included as participants.
3. Enter the number of Newsletter Articles Written and Submitted for distribution (typically, this number will always be one per month, three per quarter). Enter the number of newsletters Distributed. As the report is processed through the District and Region, the District and Region information will be added in.
4. Under Other Chapter/District/Region Events, list the number of safety or Rider Education related events that were conducted during the reporting period. Enter the number of participants that attended the events.
5. Under Safety Talks Given, enter both the number of topics discussed during the talk and the number of members or non-members in attendance.
6. Include the number of members who were new applicants or renewed in the Levels program (Levels I-IV) during the reporting period. Do not include the number of members who simply updated the Safe Miles or High Mileage only.
7. Under Comments, communicate any plans or upcoming events, request help or support, or present any issue or suggested program improvement. If the activity level was low during the reporting period, indicate the reason why (it may be seasonal).



MONTHLY REPORTS

EVERY Chapter is responsible submitting a Monthly Activity Report. If your chapter does not have an Educator, the Chapter Director is responsible for making sure this report is completed. Please send your reports **MONTHLY** to Nick and Teresa Knox. Don't wait until the last minute to send those reports!

If you need a Monthly Activity Report, you can download it from the National website. Please make sure you always use the most recent forms.

EDUCATORS – CHAPTER DIRECTORS, please, please submit your monthly reports!! We **MUST** have a report for every month. Make it simple. Print off a blank Monthly Activity Report before every meeting. Fill out the report and by the end of the meeting, you have everything you need. The next day, simply email or mail the information to Nick and Teresa, the Assistant District Educators.

Don't let Virginia Rider Ed fall below

100%

Fall Officer's Meeting

The Fall Virginia District Officer's meeting will be held on Saturday, **November 6, 2004**.

This meeting is for all District Staff, Chapter Directors, Chapter Educators and their spouses. Assistants are only to attend in place of the Director or in the event that they are going to take over the Chapter in the next few months.



The meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn just off Route 29 (Odd Fellows Road), in Lynchburg. The telephone number is 1-434-847-7500. They have a block of rooms for us at a rate of \$59.00 per night plus tax. Mention Group Code "**Gold**" when making your reservations to make sure you receive this rate. This block will be held until October 22, 2004. Since the expenses of this meeting for yourself, and anyone from your Chapter that attends are covered by your Chapter's Treasury, not all Chapters are financially able to have more than one set of officer's attend. The District recognizes this, and encourages the Chapter Directors to make the decision in the best interest of their Chapter.

We will begin the meeting promptly at 8:30 AM for everyone, with the Educators breakout somewhere around 10:15 AM and lunch at 12:00 PM. We invite you to join us for a complementary luncheon buffet. In order for us to provide this, we need to know the number of meals to be served. A letter is being mailed to you this week (September 13-17). Please complete and return this form as soon as possible.

The meeting will end No Later Than 2 PM in order to give people going to VA J's Gold Wing Celebration time to get to South Boston and freshen up prior to the VA J event. South Boston is less than an hour away from Lynchburg so folks will have plenty of time to do both events.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Lynchburg.

Master's Breakfast

All Educators as well as any Level I V members are invited to attend the Master's Breakfast at Rally in the Valley at 7:30am on Saturday morning. Breakfast will consist of biscuits, fruit, pastries, coffee and juice. We hope to see all of you there!



New Educator List

I have updated the Virginia Educator List. If you have any corrections that need to be made, please contact me as soon as possible. The list can be found on the Virginia District website.